

Senate Bill No. 877

CHAPTER 474

An act to amend Sections 2025, 2025.5, 2026, and 2027 of the Code of Civil Procedure, relating to discovery.

[Approved by Governor September 16, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 18, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 877, McPherson. Deposition officers.

Existing law requires, with limited exceptions, that a deposition be conducted under the supervision of an officer who is authorized to administer an oath. If a deposition is being recorded by means of audiotape or videotape for specified purposes, the operator of the recording equipment must be authorized to administer any oath. Existing law prohibits these persons from having a financial interest in the action.

This bill would additionally require the services and products offered by these persons or the entities providing the services of these persons to be offered to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition, as specified. The bill would also require, upon the request of any party or any party's attorney attending a deposition, any party or any party's attorney attending the deposition to enter in the record of the deposition all services and products made available to that party or to that party's attorney or to a 3rd party who is financing all or part of the action by the deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer. The bill would also prohibit a deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer from providing any service or product consisting of the deposition officer's notations or comments regarding the demeanor of any witness, attorney, or party present at the deposition to any party or any party's attorney. The bill would prohibit a deposition officer or the entity providing his or her services from collecting any personal identifying information about the witness as a service or product to be provided to any party or 3rd party who is financing all or part of the action. A violation of these provisions would result in a civil penalty of up to \$5,000. The bill would also make technical changes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2025 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

2025. (a) Any party may obtain discovery within the scope delimited by Section 2017, and subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 2019, by taking in California the oral deposition of any person, including any party to the action. The person deposed may be a natural person, an organization such as a public or private corporation, a partnership, an association, or a governmental agency.

(b) Subject to subdivisions (f) and (t), an oral deposition may be taken as follows:

(1) The defendant may serve a deposition notice without leave of court at any time after that defendant has been served or has appeared in the action, whichever occurs first.

(2) The plaintiff may serve a deposition notice without leave of court on any date that is 20 days after the service of the summons on, or appearance by, any defendant. However, on motion with or without notice, the court, for good cause shown, may grant to a plaintiff leave to serve a deposition notice on an earlier date.

(c) A party desiring to take the oral deposition of any person shall give notice in writing in the manner set forth in subdivision (d). However, where under subdivision (d) of Section 2020 only the production by a nonparty of business records for copying is desired, a copy of the deposition subpoena shall serve as the notice of deposition. The notice of deposition shall be given to every other party who has appeared in the action. The deposition notice, or the accompanying proof of service, shall list all the parties or attorneys for parties on whom it is served.

Where, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1985.3, the party giving notice of the deposition is a subpoenaing party, and the deponent is a witness commanded by a deposition subpoena to produce personal records of a consumer, the subpoenaing party shall serve on that consumer (1) a notice of the deposition, (2) the notice of privacy rights specified in subdivision (e) of Section 1985.3 and in Section 1985.6, and (3) a copy of the deposition subpoena.

(d) The deposition notice shall state all of the following:

(1) The address where the deposition will be taken.

(2) The date of the deposition, selected under subdivision (f), and the time it will commence.

(3) The name of each deponent, and the address and telephone number, if known, of any deponent who is not a party to the action. If the name of the deponent is not known, the deposition notice shall set forth instead a general description sufficient to identify the person or particular class to which the person belongs.

(4) The specification with reasonable particularity of any materials or category of materials to be produced by the deponent.

(5) Any intention to record the testimony by audiotape or videotape, in addition to recording the testimony by the stenographic method as required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (l) and any intention to record the testimony by stenographic method, through



the instant visual display of the testimony. In the latter event, a copy of the deposition notice shall also be given to the deposition officer. Any offer to provide the instant visual display of the testimony or to provide rough draft transcripts to any party which is accepted prior to, or offered at, the deposition shall also be made by the deposition officer at the deposition to all parties in attendance.

(6) Any intention to reserve the right to use at trial a videotape deposition of a treating or consulting physician or of any expert witness under paragraph (4) of subdivision (u). In this event, the operator of the videotape camera shall be a person who is authorized to administer an oath, and shall not be financially interested in the action or be a relative or employee of any attorney of any of the parties.

If the deponent named is not a natural person, the deposition notice shall describe with reasonable particularity the matters on which examination is requested. In that event, the deponent shall designate and produce at the deposition those of its officers, directors, managing agents, employees, or agents who are most qualified to testify on its behalf as to those matters to the extent of any information known or reasonably available to the deponent. A deposition subpoena shall advise a nonparty deponent of its duty to make this designation, and shall describe with reasonable particularity the matters on which examination is requested.

If the attendance of the deponent is to be compelled by service of a deposition subpoena under Section 2020, an identical copy of that subpoena shall be served with the deposition notice.

(e) (1) The deposition of a natural person, whether or not a party to the action, shall be taken at a place that is, at the option of the party giving notice of the deposition, either within 75 miles of the deponent's residence, or within the county where the action is pending and within 150 miles of the deponent's residence, unless the court orders otherwise under paragraph (3).

(2) The deposition of an organization that is a party to the action shall be taken at a place that is, at the option of the party giving notice of the deposition, either within 75 miles of the organization's principal executive or business office in California, or within the county where the action is pending and within 150 miles of that office. The deposition of any other organization shall be taken within 75 miles of the organization's principal executive or business office in California, unless the organization consents to a more distant place. If the organization has not designated a principal executive or business office in California, the deposition shall be taken at a place that is, at the option of the party giving notice of the deposition, either within the county where the action is pending, or within 75 miles of any executive or business office in California of the organization.

(3) A party desiring to take the deposition of a natural person who is a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or



employee of a party may make a motion for an order that the deponent attend for deposition at a place that is more distant than that permitted under paragraph (1). This motion shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of any issue presented by the motion.

In exercising its discretion to grant or deny this motion, the court shall take into consideration any factor tending to show whether the interests of justice will be served by requiring the deponent's attendance at that more distant place, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Whether the moving party selected the forum.

(B) Whether the deponent will be present to testify at the trial of the action.

(C) The convenience of the deponent.

(D) The feasibility of conducting the deposition by written questions under Section 2028, or of using a discovery method other than a deposition.

(E) The number of depositions sought to be taken at a place more distant than that permitted under paragraph (1).

(F) The expense to the parties of requiring the deposition to be taken within the distance permitted under paragraph (1).

(G) The whereabouts of the deponent at the time for which the deposition is scheduled.

The order may be conditioned on the advancement by the moving party of the reasonable expenses and costs to the deponent for travel to the place of deposition.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to increase travel limits for party deponent, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(f) An oral deposition shall be scheduled for a date at least 10 days after service of the deposition notice. If, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1985.3, the party giving notice of the deposition is a subpoenaing party, and the deponent is a witness commanded by a deposition subpoena to produce personal records of a consumer, the deposition shall be scheduled for a date at least 20 days after issuance of that subpoena. However, in unlawful detainer actions, an oral deposition shall be scheduled for a date at least five days after service of the deposition notice, but not later than five days before trial.

On motion or ex parte application of any party or deponent, for good cause shown, the court may shorten or extend the time for scheduling a deposition, or may stay its taking until the determination of a motion for a protective order under subdivision (i).



(g) Any party served with a deposition notice that does not comply with subdivisions (b) to (f), inclusive, waives any error or irregularity unless that party promptly serves a written objection specifying that error or irregularity at least three calendar days prior to the date for which the deposition is scheduled, on the party seeking to take the deposition and any other attorney or party on whom the deposition notice was served. If an objection is made three calendar days before the deposition date, the objecting party shall make personal service of that objection pursuant to Section 1011 on the party who gave notice of the deposition. Any deposition taken after the service of a written objection shall not be used against the objecting party under subdivision (u) if the party did not attend the deposition and if the court determines that the objection was a valid one.

In addition to serving this written objection, a party may also move for an order staying the taking of the deposition and quashing the deposition notice. This motion shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of any issue presented by the motion. The taking of the deposition is stayed pending the determination of this motion.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to quash a deposition notice, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(h) (1) The service of a deposition notice under subdivision (c) is effective to require any deponent who is a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party to attend and to testify, as well as to produce any document or tangible thing for inspection and copying.

(2) The attendance and testimony of any other deponent, as well as the production by the deponent of any document or tangible thing for inspection and copying, requires the service on the deponent of a deposition subpoena under Section 2020.

(i) Before, during, or after a deposition, any party, any deponent, or any other affected natural person or organization may promptly move for a protective order. The motion shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion.

The court, for good cause shown, may make any order that justice requires to protect any party, deponent, or other natural person or organization from unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or oppression, or undue burden and expense. This protective order may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following directions:

- (1) That the deposition not be taken at all.
- (2) That the deposition be taken at a different time.



(3) That a videotape deposition of a treating or consulting physician or of any expert witness, intended for possible use at trial under paragraph (4) of subdivision (u), be postponed until the moving party has had an adequate opportunity to prepare, by discovery deposition of the deponent, or other means, for cross-examination.

(4) That the deposition be taken at a place other than that specified in the deposition notice, if it is within a distance permitted by subdivision (e).

(5) That the deposition be taken only on certain specified terms and conditions.

(6) That the deponent's testimony be taken by written, instead of oral, examination.

(7) That the method of discovery be interrogatories to a party instead of an oral deposition.

(8) That the testimony be recorded in a manner different from that specified in the deposition notice.

(9) That certain matters not be inquired into.

(10) That the scope of the examination be limited to certain matters.

(11) That all or certain of the writings or tangible things designated in the deposition notice not be produced, inspected, or copied.

(12) That designated persons, other than the parties to the action and their officers and counsel, be excluded from attending the deposition.

(13) That a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information not be disclosed or be disclosed only to specified persons or only in a specified way.

(14) That the parties simultaneously file specified documents enclosed in sealed envelopes to be opened as directed by the court.

(15) That the deposition be sealed and thereafter opened only on order of the court.

If the motion for a protective order is denied in whole or in part, the court may order that the deponent provide or permit the discovery against which protection was sought on those terms and conditions that are just.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion for a protective order, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(j) (1) If the party giving notice of a deposition fails to attend or proceed with it, the court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against that party, or the attorney for that party, or both, and in favor of any party attending in person or by attorney, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial



justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(2) If a deponent does not appear for a deposition because the party giving notice of the deposition failed to serve a required deposition subpoena, the court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against that party, or the attorney for that party, or both, in favor of any other party who, in person or by attorney, attended at the time and place specified in the deposition notice in the expectation that the deponent's testimony would be taken, unless the court finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

If a deponent on whom a deposition subpoena has been served fails to attend a deposition or refuses to be sworn as a witness, the court may impose on the deponent the sanctions described in subdivision (h) of Section 2020.

(3) If, after service of a deposition notice, a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party, or a person designated by an organization that is a party under subdivision (d), without having served a valid objection under subdivision (g), fails to appear for examination, or to proceed with it, or to produce for inspection any document or tangible thing described in the deposition notice, the party giving the notice may move for an order compelling the deponent's attendance and testimony, and the production for inspection of any document or tangible thing described in the deposition notice. This motion (A) shall set forth specific facts showing good cause justifying the production for inspection of any document or tangible thing described in the deposition notice, and (B) shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by it or, when the deponent fails to attend the deposition and produce the documents or things described in the deposition notice, by a declaration stating that the petitioner has contacted the deponent to inquire about the nonappearance. If this motion is granted, the court shall also impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against the deponent or the party with whom the deponent is affiliated, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust. On motion of any other party who, in person or by attorney, attended at the time and place specified in the deposition notice in the expectation that the deponent's testimony would be taken, the court shall also impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.



If that party or party-affiliated deponent then fails to obey an order compelling attendance, testimony, and production, the court may make those orders that are just, including the imposition of an issue sanction, an evidence sanction, or a terminating sanction under Section 2023 against that party deponent or against the party with whom the deponent is affiliated. In lieu of, or in addition to, this sanction, the court may impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against that deponent or against the party with whom that party deponent is affiliated, and in favor of any party who, in person or by attorney, attended in the expectation that the deponent's testimony would be taken pursuant to that order.

(k) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 2020, the deposition shall be conducted under the supervision of an officer who is authorized to administer an oath and is subject to all of the following requirements:

(1) The officer shall not be financially interested in the action and shall not be a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, or of any of the parties.

(2) Services and products offered or provided by the deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or to any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action shall be offered to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition. No service or product may be offered or provided by the deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action unless the service or product is offered or provided to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition. All services and products offered or provided shall be made available at the same time to all parties or their attorneys.

(3) The deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer shall not provide to any party or any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action any service or product consisting of the deposition officer's notations or comments regarding the demeanor of any witness, attorney, or party present at the deposition. The deposition officer or entity providing the services of the deposition officer shall not collect any personal identifying information about the witness as a service or product to be provided to any party or third party who is financing all or part of the action.

(4) Upon the request of any party or any party's attorney attending a deposition, any party or any party's attorney attending the deposition shall enter in the record of the deposition all services and products made available to that party or party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action by the deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer. A party in the action who is not represented by an attorney



shall be informed by the noticing party or the party's attorney that the unrepresented party may request this statement.

(5) Any objection to the qualifications of the deposition officer shall be waived unless made before the deposition begins or as soon thereafter as the ground for that objection becomes known or could be discovered by reasonable diligence.

(I) (1) The deposition officer shall put the deponent under oath. Unless the parties agree or the court orders otherwise, the testimony, as well as any stated objections, shall be taken stenographically. The party noticing the deposition may also record the testimony by audiotape or videotape if the notice of deposition stated an intention also to record the testimony by either of those methods, or if all the parties agree that the testimony may also be recorded by either of those methods. Any other party, at that party's expense, may make a simultaneous audiotape or videotape record of the deposition, provided that other party promptly, and in no event less than three calendar days before the date for which the deposition is scheduled, serves a written notice of this intention to audiotape or videotape the deposition testimony on the party or attorney who noticed the deposition, on all other parties or attorneys on whom the deposition notice was served under subdivision (c), and on any deponent whose attendance is being compelled by a deposition subpoena under Section 2020. If this notice is given three calendar days before the deposition date, it shall be made by personal service under Section 1011. Examination and cross-examination of the deponent shall proceed as permitted at trial under the provisions of the Evidence Code.

(2) If the deposition is being recorded by means of audiotape or videotape, the following procedure shall be observed:

(A) The area used for recording the deponent's oral testimony shall be suitably large, adequately lighted, and reasonably quiet.

(B) The operator of the recording equipment shall be competent to set up, operate, and monitor the equipment in the manner prescribed in this subdivision. The operator may be an employee of the attorney taking the deposition unless the operator is also the deposition officer. However, if a videotape of deposition testimony is to be used under paragraph (4) of subdivision (u), the operator of the recording equipment shall be a person who is authorized to administer an oath, and shall not be financially interested in the action or be a relative or employee of any attorney of any of the parties, unless all parties attending the deposition agree on the record to waive these qualifications and restrictions. Services and products offered or provided by the deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or to any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action shall be offered or provided to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition. No service or product may be offered or provided by the



deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action unless the service or product is offered or provided to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition. All services and products offered or provided shall be made available at the same time to all parties or their attorneys. The deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer shall not provide to any party or any other person or entity any service or product consisting of the deposition officer's notations or comments regarding the demeanor of any witness, attorney, or party present at the deposition. The deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer shall not collect any personal identifying information about the witness as a service or product to be provided to any party or third party who is financing all or part of the action. Upon the request of any party or any party's attorney attending a deposition, any party or any party's attorney attending the deposition shall enter in the record of the deposition all services and products made available to that party or party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action by the deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer. A party in the action who is not represented by an attorney shall be informed by the noticing party that the unrepresented party may request this statement.

(C) The operator shall not distort the appearance or the demeanor of participants in the deposition by the use of camera or sound recording techniques.

(D) The deposition shall begin with an oral or written statement on camera or on the audiotape that includes the operator's name and business address, the name and business address of the operator's employer, the date, time, and place of the deposition, the caption of the case, the name of the deponent, a specification of the party on whose behalf the deposition is being taken, and any stipulations by the parties.

(E) Counsel for the parties shall identify themselves on camera or on the audiotape.

(F) The oath shall be administered to the deponent on camera or on the audiotape.

(G) If the length of a deposition requires the use of more than one unit of tape, the end of each unit and the beginning of each succeeding unit shall be announced on camera or on the audiotape.

(H) At the conclusion of a deposition, a statement shall be made on camera or on the audiotape that the deposition is ended and shall set forth any stipulations made by counsel concerning the custody of the audiotape or videotape recording and the exhibits, or concerning other pertinent matters.

(I) A party intending to offer an audiotaped or videotaped recording of a deposition in evidence under subdivision (u) shall



notify the court and all parties in writing of that intent and of the parts of the deposition to be offered within sufficient time for objections to be made and ruled on by the judge to whom the case is assigned for trial or hearing, and for any editing of the tape. Objections to all or part of the deposition shall be made in writing. The court may permit further designations of testimony and objections as justice may require. With respect to those portions of an audiotaped or videotaped deposition that are not designated by any party or that are ruled to be objectionable, the court may order that the party offering the recording of the deposition at the trial or hearing suppress those portions, or that an edited version of the deposition tape be prepared for use at the trial or hearing. The original audiotape or videotape of the deposition shall be preserved unaltered. If no stenographic record of the deposition testimony has previously been made, the party offering a videotape or an audiotape recording of that testimony under subdivision (u) shall accompany that offer with a stenographic transcript prepared from that recording.

(3) In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties may transmit written questions in a sealed envelope to the party taking the deposition for delivery to the deposition officer, who shall unseal the envelope and propound them to the deponent after the oral examination has been completed.

(m) (1) The protection of information from discovery on the ground that it is privileged or that it is a protected work product under Section 2018 is waived unless a specific objection to its disclosure is timely made during the deposition.

(2) Errors and irregularities of any kind occurring at the oral examination that might be cured if promptly presented are waived unless a specific objection to them is timely made during the deposition. These errors and irregularities include, but are not limited to, those relating to the manner of taking the deposition, to the oath or affirmation administered, to the conduct of a party, attorney, deponent, or deposition officer, or to the form of any question or answer. Unless the objecting party demands that the taking of the deposition be suspended to permit a motion for a protective order under subdivision (n), the deposition shall proceed subject to the objection.

(3) Objections to the competency of the deponent, or to the relevancy, materiality, or admissibility at trial of the testimony or of the materials produced are unnecessary and are not waived by failure to make them before or during the deposition.

(4) If a deponent fails to answer any question or to produce any document or tangible thing under the deponent's control that is specified in the deposition notice or a deposition subpoena, the party seeking that answer or production may adjourn the deposition or complete the examination on other matters without waiving the



right at a later time to move for an order compelling that answer or production under subdivision (o).

(n) The deposition officer shall not suspend the taking of testimony without stipulation of the party conducting the deposition and the deponent unless any party attending the deposition or the deponent demands the taking of testimony be suspended to enable that party or deponent to move for a protective order on the ground that the examination is being conducted in bad faith or in a manner that unreasonably annoys, embarrasses, or oppresses that deponent or party. This motion shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion. The court, for good cause shown, may terminate the examination or may limit the scope and manner of taking the deposition as provided in subdivision (i). If the order terminates the examination, the deposition shall not thereafter be resumed, except on order of the court.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion for this protective order, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(o) If a deponent fails to answer any question or to produce any document or tangible thing under the deponent's control that is specified in the deposition notice or a deposition subpoena, the party seeking discovery may move the court for an order compelling that answer or production. This motion shall be made no later than 60 days after the completion of the record of the deposition, and shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion. Notice of this motion shall be given to all parties, and to the deponent either orally at the examination, or by subsequent service in writing. If the notice of the motion is given orally, the deposition officer shall direct the deponent to attend a session of the court at the time specified in the notice. Not less than five days prior to the hearing on this motion, the moving party shall lodge with the court a certified copy of any parts of the stenographic transcript of the deposition that are relevant to the motion. If a deposition is recorded by audiotape or videotape, the moving party is required to lodge a certified copy of a transcript of any parts of the deposition that are relevant to the motion. If the court determines that the answer or production sought is subject to discovery, it shall order that the answer be given or the production be made on the resumption of the deposition.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to compel answer or production, unless it finds that



the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

If a deponent fails to obey an order entered under this subdivision, the failure may be considered a contempt of court. In addition, if the disobedient deponent is a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party, the court may make those orders that are just against the disobedient party, or against the party with whom the disobedient deponent is affiliated, including the imposition of an issue sanction, an evidence sanction, or a terminating sanction under Section 2023. In lieu of, or in addition to, this sanction, the court may impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against that party deponent or against any party with whom the deponent is affiliated.

(p) Unless the parties agree otherwise, the testimony at any deposition recorded by stenographic means shall be transcribed. The party noticing the deposition shall bear the cost of that transcription, unless the court, on motion and for good cause shown, orders that the cost be borne or shared by another party. Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (k), any other party, at that party's expense, may obtain a copy of the transcript. If the deposition officer receives a request from a party for an original or a copy of the deposition transcript, or any portion thereof, and the document will be available to that party prior to the time the original or copy would be available to any other party, the deposition officer shall immediately notify all other parties attending the deposition of the request, and shall, upon request by any party other than the party making the original request, make that copy of the full or partial deposition transcript available to all parties at the same time. Stenographic notes of depositions shall be retained by the reporter for a period of not less than eight years from the date of the deposition, where no transcript is produced, and not less than one year from the date on which the transcript is produced. Those notes may be either on paper or electronic media, as long as it allows for satisfactory production of a transcript at any time during the periods specified. At the request of any other party to the action, including a party who did not attend the taking of the deposition testimony, any party who records or causes the recording of that testimony by means of audiotape or videotape shall promptly (1) permit that other party to hear the audiotape or to view the videotape, and (2) furnish a copy of the audiotape or videotape to that other party on receipt of payment of the reasonable cost of making that copy of the tape.

If the testimony at the deposition is recorded both stenographically, and by audiotape or videotape, the stenographic transcript is the official record of that testimony for the purpose of the trial and any subsequent hearing or appeal.

(q) (1) If the deposition testimony is stenographically recorded, the deposition officer shall send written notice to the deponent and



to all parties attending the deposition when the original transcript of the testimony for each session of the deposition is available for reading, correcting, and signing, unless the deponent and the attending parties agree on the record that the reading, correcting, and signing of the transcript of the testimony will be waived or that the reading, correcting, and signing of a transcript of the testimony will take place after the entire deposition has been concluded or at some other specific time. For 30 days following each such notice, unless the attending parties and the deponent agree on the record or otherwise in writing to a longer or shorter time period, the deponent may change the form or the substance of the answer to a question, and may either approve the transcript of the deposition by signing it, or refuse to approve the transcript by not signing it.

Alternatively, within this same period, the deponent may change the form or the substance of the answer to any question and may approve or refuse to approve the transcript by means of a letter to the deposition officer signed by the deponent which is mailed by certified or registered mail with return receipt requested. A copy of that letter shall be sent by first-class mail to all parties attending the deposition. For good cause shown, the court may shorten the 30-day period for making changes, approving, or refusing to approve the transcript.

The deposition officer shall indicate on the original of the transcript, if the deponent has not already done so at the office of the deposition officer, any action taken by the deponent and indicate on the original of the transcript, the deponent's approval of, or failure or refusal to approve, the transcript. The deposition officer shall also notify in writing the parties attending the deposition of any changes which the deponent timely made in person. If the deponent fails or refuses to approve the transcript within the allotted period, the deposition shall be given the same effect as though it had been approved, subject to any changes timely made by the deponent. However, on a seasonable motion to suppress the deposition, accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion, the court may determine that the reasons given for the failure or refusal to approve the transcript require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to suppress a deposition, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(2) If there is no stenographic transcription of the deposition, the deposition officer shall send written notice to the deponent and to all parties attending the deposition that the recording is available for review, unless the deponent and all these parties agree on the record



to waive the hearing or viewing of an audiotape or videotape recording of the testimony. For 30 days following this notice the deponent, either in person or by signed letter to the deposition officer, may change the substance of the answer to any question.

The deposition officer shall set forth in a writing to accompany the recording any changes made by the deponent, as well as either the deponent's signature identifying the deposition as his or her own, or a statement of the deponent's failure to supply the signature, or to contact the officer within the allotted period. When a deponent fails to contact the officer within the allotted period, or expressly refuses by a signature to identify the deposition as his or her own, the deposition shall be given the same effect as though signed. However, on a reasonable motion to suppress the deposition, accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion, the court may determine that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to suppress a deposition, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(r) (1) The deposition officer shall certify on the transcript of the deposition, or in a writing accompanying an audiotaped or videotaped deposition as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (q), that the deponent was duly sworn and that the transcript or recording is a true record of the testimony given.

(2) When prepared as a rough draft transcript, the transcript of the deposition may not be certified and may not be used, cited, or transcribed as the certified transcript of the deposition proceedings. The rough draft transcript may not be cited or used in any way or at any time to rebut or contradict the certified transcript of deposition proceedings as provided by the deposition officer.

(s) (1) The certified transcript of a deposition shall not be filed with the court. Instead, the deposition officer shall securely seal that transcript in an envelope or package endorsed with the title of the action and marked: "Deposition of (here insert name of deponent)," and shall promptly transmit it to the attorney for the party who noticed the deposition. This attorney shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, or tampering.

The attorney to whom the transcript of a deposition is transmitted shall retain custody of it until six months after final disposition of the action. At that time, the transcript may be destroyed, unless the court, on motion of any party and for good cause shown, orders that the transcript be preserved for a longer period.

(2) An audiotape or videotape record of deposition testimony, including a certified tape made by an operator qualified under



subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (l), shall not be filed with the court. Instead, the operator shall retain custody of that record and shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, or tampering, and preserve as far as practicable the quality of the tape and the integrity of the testimony and images it contains.

At the request of any party to the action, including a party who did not attend the taking of the deposition testimony, or at the request of the deponent, that operator shall promptly (A) permit the one making the request to hear or to view the tape on receipt of payment of a reasonable charge for providing the facilities for hearing or viewing the tape, and (B) furnish a copy of the audiotape or the videotape recording to the one making the request on receipt of payment of the reasonable cost of making that copy of the tape.

The attorney or operator who has custody of an audiotape or videotape record of deposition testimony shall retain custody of it until six months after final disposition of the action. At that time, the audiotape or videotape may be destroyed or erased, unless the court, on motion of any party and for good cause shown, orders that the tape be preserved for a longer period.

(t) Once any party has taken the deposition of any natural person, including that of a party to the action, neither the party who gave, nor any other party who has been served with a deposition notice pursuant to subdivision (c) may take a subsequent deposition of that deponent. However, for good cause shown, the court may grant leave to take a subsequent deposition, and the parties, with the consent of any deponent who is not a party, may stipulate that a subsequent deposition be taken. This subdivision does not preclude taking one subsequent deposition of a natural person who has previously been examined (1) as a result of that person's designation to testify on behalf of an organization under subdivision (d), or (2), pursuant to a court order under Section 485.230, for the limited purpose of discovering pursuant to Section 485.230 the identity, location, and value of property in which the deponent has an interest. This subdivision does not authorize the taking of more than one subsequent deposition for the limited purpose of Section 485.230.

(u) At the trial or any other hearing in the action, any part or all of a deposition may be used against any party who was present or represented at the taking of the deposition, or who had due notice of the deposition and did not serve a valid objection under subdivision (g), so far as admissible under the rules of evidence applied as though the deponent were then present and testifying as a witness, in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Any party may use a deposition for the purpose of contradicting or impeaching the testimony of the deponent as a witness, or for any other purpose permitted by the Evidence Code.



(2) An adverse party may use for any purpose, a deposition of a party to the action, or of anyone who at the time of taking the deposition was an officer, director, managing agent, employee, agent, or designee under subdivision (d) of a party. It is not ground for objection to the use of a deposition of a party under this paragraph by an adverse party that the deponent is available to testify, has testified, or will testify at the trial or other hearing.

(3) Any party may use for any purpose the deposition of any person or organization, including that of any party to the action, if the court finds any of the following:

(A) The deponent resides more than 150 miles from the place of the trial or other hearing.

(B) The deponent, without the procurement or wrongdoing of the proponent of the deposition for the purpose of preventing testimony in open court, is (i) exempted or precluded on the ground of privilege from testifying concerning the matter to which the deponent's testimony is relevant, (ii) disqualified from testifying, (iii) dead or unable to attend or testify because of existing physical or mental illness or infirmity, (iv) absent from the trial or other hearing and the court is unable to compel the deponent's attendance by its process, or (v) absent from the trial or other hearing and the proponent of the deposition has exercised reasonable diligence but has been unable to procure the deponent's attendance by the court's process.

(C) Exceptional circumstances exist that make it desirable to allow the use of any deposition in the interests of justice and with due regard to the importance of presenting the testimony of witnesses orally in open court.

(4) Any party may use a videotape deposition of a treating or consulting physician or of any expert witness even though the deponent is available to testify if the deposition notice under subdivision (d) reserved the right to use the deposition at trial, and if that party has complied with subparagraph (I) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (I).

(5) Subject to the requirements of this section, a party may offer in evidence all or any part of a deposition, and if the party introduces only part of the deposition, any other party may introduce any other parts that are relevant to the parts introduced.

(6) Substitution of parties does not affect the right to use depositions previously taken.

(7) When an action has been brought in any court of the United States or of any state, and another action involving the same subject matter is subsequently brought between the same parties or their representatives or successors in interest, all depositions lawfully taken and duly filed in the initial action may be used in the subsequent action as if originally taken in that subsequent action. A



deposition previously taken may also be used as permitted by the Evidence Code.

(v) Violation of subdivision (k) by any person may result in a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Section 2025.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

2025.5. (a) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (k) of Section 2025, unless the court issues an order to the contrary, a copy of the transcript, videotape, or other recording of testimony at the deposition, if still in the possession of the deposition officer, shall be made available by the deposition officer to any person requesting a copy thereof upon payment of a reasonable charge set by the deposition officer.

(b) If a copy is requested from the deposition officer, the deposition officer shall mail a notice to all parties attending the deposition and to the deponent at his or her last known address advising them that (1) the copy is being sought, (2) the name of the person requesting the copy, and (3) the right to seek a protective order pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 2025. If a protective order is not served on the deposition officer within 30 days of the mailing of the notice, the deposition officer shall make the copy available to the person requesting the copy.

(c) This section shall apply only to recorded testimony taken at depositions occurring on or after January 1, 1998.

SEC. 3. Section 2026 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

2026. (a) Any party may obtain discovery by taking an oral deposition, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 2025, in another state of the United States, or in a territory or an insular possession subject to its jurisdiction. Except as modified in this section, the procedures for taking oral depositions in California set forth in Section 2025 apply to an oral deposition taken in another state of the United States, or in a territory or an insular possession subject to its jurisdiction.

(b) (1) If a deponent is a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party, the service of the deposition notice is effective to compel that deponent to attend and to testify, as well as to produce any document or tangible thing for inspection and copying. The deposition notice shall specify a place in the state, territory, or insular possession of the United States that is within 75 miles of the residence or a business office of a deponent.

(2) If the deponent is not a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party, a party serving a deposition notice under this section shall use any process and procedures required and available under the laws of the state, territory, or insular possession where the deposition is to be taken to



compel the deponent to attend and to testify, as well as to produce any document or tangible thing for inspection, copying, and any related activity.

(c) A deposition taken under this section shall be conducted (1) under the supervision of a person who is authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or those of the place where the examination is to be held, and who is not otherwise disqualified under subdivision (k) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (l) of Section 2025, or (2) before a person appointed by the court. This appointment is effective to authorize that person to administer oaths and to take testimony. When necessary or convenient, the court shall issue a commission on such terms and with such directions as are just and appropriate.

SEC. 4. Section 2027 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

2027. (a) Any party may obtain discovery by taking an oral deposition, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 2025, in a foreign nation. Except as modified in this section, the procedures for taking oral depositions in California set forth in Section 2025 apply to an oral deposition taken in a foreign nation.

(b) (1) If a deponent is a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent, or employee of a party, the service of the deposition notice is effective to compel the deponent to attend and to testify, as well as to produce any document or tangible thing for inspection and copying.

(2) If a deponent is not a party to the action or an officer, director, managing agent or employee of a party, a party serving a deposition notice under this section shall use any process and procedures required and available under the laws of the foreign nation where the deposition is to be taken to compel the deponent to attend and to testify, as well as to produce any document or tangible thing for inspection, copying, and any related activity.

(c) A deposition taken under this section shall be conducted under the supervision of (1) a person who is authorized to administer oaths or their equivalent by the laws of the United States or of the foreign nation, and who is not otherwise disqualified under subdivision (k) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (l) of Section 2025; (2) a person or officer appointed by commission or under letters rogatory; or (3) any person agreed to by all the parties.

On motion of the party seeking to take an oral deposition in a foreign nation, the court in which the action is pending shall issue a commission, letters rogatory, or a letter of request, if it determines that one is necessary or convenient. The commission, letters rogatory, or letter of request may include any terms and directions that are just and appropriate. The deposition officer may be designated by name or by descriptive title in the deposition notice and in the commission. Letters rogatory or a letter of request may be



addressed: “To the Appropriate Judicial Authority in [name of foreign nation].”

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